

Message from the coordinators

Dear RESEARCH SIG members,

After the recent IATEFL conference in Brighton I have a few words to say. The most important news is that I have stepped down as SIG Coordinator and that Richard Smith (University of Warwick) is filling the post, as of the RESIG Forum at the conference. I am very glad that Richard is taking over as he seems an ideal person, not only in terms of his background inside and outside IATEFL, but also because he has some new ideas for the SIG. We have been lucky to be able to discuss the future of RESEARCH SIG together before and after the Forum, and I will continue very happily on the SIG committee, to help Richard in any way I can.

As is customary I want to say some thank-yous, but not just because it is customary, but because there are a number of colleagues who have been a real support not just to me, but more importantly, to the SIG. First, there is Shaida, our editor. Many of us did not really know Shaida, me included. However, I realise that she has been doing a hugely necessary job as editor and committee member, very much without most of us realising it. As far as I am concerned, Shaida has not only contributed enormously to RESEARCH SIG, but personally has been an enormous support in a somewhat difficult position as coordinator, as coordinators basically depend on members to achieve anything. Shaida has helped set up a number of things for the future, particularly the discussion group, at RESIG in Yahoo Groups, where she has also begun an index of members and their research profiles, as requested by some members. We hope to develop the RESIG Yahoo Group activity, with membership support, of course. Thank you very, very much to Shaida. Other members, who are not only loyal to RESIG, but whose support I really appreciate, are Sarah Mercer and Ana Falcao. Thanks to you both.

Also a big thank you to Eleanor Broadbridge. To all SIG coordinators, Eleanor is an essential part of IATEFL, and not only a huge support, but also a very efficient colleague. Thank you very much to Eleanor for her help and, in many cases, for making up for my deficiencies. Thank you also to many others at IATEFL head office, not least Glenda Smart and Alison Medland.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to Colin Mackenzie, the overall SIG coordinator, for being such an excellent manager of the overall SIG committee, but also a very capable manager of us as people Not always easy. The meetings have always been not only well organised, not only efficiently run, but also conducted with great respect, and nimble sensitivity. I will miss the bonhomie of the SIG meetings, with so much voluntary commitment and responsibility to IATEFL, not to mention the genuine concern, but the humour as well. Thanks to you all, and to Herbert, and Amos, and, and

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Looking to the future, I wish Richard all the best, and hope that all you RESIG members will help him and us to take RESIG forward. The legacy of RESEARCH SIG, inherited most recently from both Simon Borg and Alan Fortune, is the RESEARCH newsletter, organising the PCE this year, re-activating and broadening the RESIG Yahoo group, and encouraging RESIG participation in the conference in Poland with Mirek Pawlak (see the back page for details). I would like to add a special thank you to Professor Simon Borg for a truly excellent PCE that he conducted single-handed on Doing Quality Research – he showed what quality research is and what quality PCEs are. We are all lucky at IATEFL that eminent professionals and colleagues in the field offer their expertise voluntarily to the rest of us. Thanks also to the contributors to the RESIG programme at the conferences. On that note, take care, all the best, and don't hesitate to help the SIG!

Anthony Bruton

Dear Anthony and all RESIG members

Anthony, your suggestion that I take over as coordinator came rather 'out of the blue' (at the end of a panel discussion in the RESIG track at the Brighton conference that I moderated on 'Investigating large classes'). I'd been in touch with you previously with an idea for getting summaries of some of the best MA in ELT/TESOL dissertations each year into the newsletter, and that's one idea I'd certainly like to try to take forward. I'd also like to see if the SIG can reach out a bit more not only to English teachers in general but to teachers in so-called 'difficult circumstances', and I have a strong interest in seeing whether we can help promote both practitioner research and the mediation of relevant research findings to practitioners. At the same time, I'm very aware that the SIG depends on the loyalty and commitment of its existing members and I'd like to spend a few months learning what priorities you, the SIG's members, might see as major.

RESIG has a great committee going forward and – aside from those Anthony has mentioned – I'm very happy that Sarah Brewer (University of Reading) and Graham Hall (Northumbria University) have agreed to come on board – and there is space for more, so just get in touch if you'd like to be actively involved. We'd be very happy to hear from you also if you feel you'd like organize a SIG event in your institution, contribute to the newsletter, or help in some other way.

My final words here, though, are for Anthony – on behalf of all the members, thank you very much indeed for steering RESIG into its current strong position!

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